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That the members of this council also express their willingness, in the event such a strike is not amicably settled, to wait indefinitely for the publication of the journals of the society.

#### THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS<sup>1</sup>

THE Institute of Physics was inaugurated at a largely attended meeting in the hall of the Institution of Civil Engineers on April 27. The need has long been felt for a corporate body, analogous to the Institute of Chemistry, which should strengthen the position of workers engaged in physics, and form a bond between the various societies interested in the subject. The institute has now been founded by the cooperation, in the first instance, of the Faraday Society, the Optical Society and the Physical Society of London, while the Royal Microscopical Society and the Roentgen Society have since decided to participate. In opening the proceedings, the first president, Sir Richard Glazebrook, said that the work of the physicist would become more and more important in the future, both in pure and applied science, and one of the aims of the institute was to accelerate a recognition of the physicist's position and value. Many developments in physics had been of vital importance during the war, but men who had done important work as physicists could only be given an official status in some cases by being termed research chemists. He added that the membership of the institute was already about 300, and comprised most of the leaders in physical science. Sir J. J. Thomson, who, it was stated, was willing to be nominated as president for the next year, gave a brief address. He said that to one who regarded chemistry as a branch of physics it was rather anomalous that hitherto there should have been an Institute of Chemistry and not an Institute of Physics. He had been a student of physics for fifty years. At the beginning of that period physics was like an army with great generals but few troops. There were at that time perhaps a dozen laboratories in the country. Opportunities multiplied rapidly, however, and students with them, and salaries also increased so that

physics now offered to every competent man a livelihood though but small hope of a fortune. To-day the demand for competent physicists exceeded the supply. Research was expensive for the student and for the university, and perhaps this fact was not sufficiently recognized, although more money was available for research now than ever before. He saw no disposition to neglect or undervalue pure research, undertaken without any thought of an industrial application, and he congratulated the institute on representing a profession which not only contributed so largely in various ways to human comfort, but aided the intellectual development of mankind. The Right Hon. A. J. Balfour extended a cordial welcome to the Institute. He had been greatly surprised to learn that there was not already in existence an institute of physics. After all, physics was the most fundamental of all the sciences. Whatever a man's line of research might be, if he could find a physical explanation for the phenomena he was examining, then, and then only, could he hope for something like finality in his investigation. It was certainly surprising that in this country, which had not lagged behind any country in the world in the great advances it had made in regard to the physical knowledge of the universe, they had not had an institute of physics before now.

#### THE BOSTON MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

THE seventy-second annual session of the American Medical Association will be held in Boston, Mass., June 6-10, 1921, under the presidency of Dr. William C. Braisted. The scientific assembly of the association will open with the general meeting to be held at 8:30 P.M., Tuesday, June 7. The Sections will meet Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, June 8, 9 and 10 as follows:

*Convening at 9 a.m.*, the Sections on Practise of Medicine; Obstetrics, Gynecology and Abdominal Surgery; Laryngology, Otology and Rhinology; Pathology and Physiology; Stomatology; Nervous and Mental Diseases; Urology; Preventive Medicine and Public Health.

<sup>1</sup> From the *British Medical Journal*.

*Convening at 2 p.m., the Sections on Surgery, General and Abdominal; Ophthalmology; Diseases of Children; Pharmacology and Therapeutics; Dermatology and Syphilology; Orthopedic Surgery; Gastro-Enterology and Proctology; Miscellaneous.*

Among the foreign guests will be: Dr. W. Blair Bell, Liverpool; Dr. H. E. G. Boyle, London; Dr. Jacques Calve, Plage, France; Sir George Lenthal Cheattle, London; Dr. Walter W. Chipman, Montreal; Dr. Pierre Janet, Paris; Sir Robert Jones, Liverpool; Professor V. Putti, Bologna, Italy; Dr. Richard G. Rows and Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Smith, London; Professor Soubbotitch, Belgrade, Serbia; and Drs. M. Turin and A. Widmer, Territet, Switzerland.

#### MME. CURIE'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

THE events in honor of Mme. Curie arranged for last week were carried out in accordance with the program. On Tuesday, May 17, she was given a luncheon in New York by the American Chemical Society, the American Electrochemical Society, the Chemists Club and American sections of the Société de Chimie industrielle and the Society of Chemical Industry. Dr. Edgar F. Smith presided and addresses of welcome were made by Dr. Robert B. Moore, chief chemist of the Bureau of Mines; Dr. Francis Carter Wood, head of the Crocker Cancer Research Laboratory of Columbia University; and Professor George B. Pegram, dean of the Columbia University School of Mines.

In the evening a reception in honor of Mme. Curie was given at the American Museum of Natural History by the New York Academy of Sciences and the New York Mineralogical Club, at which Dr. Michael I. Pupin, professor of electro-mechanics at Columbia University; Dr. Robert Abbe, Dr. George F. Kunz and Professor Alexander H. Phillips, of Princeton University, made addresses. Mme. Curie's election as an honorary fellow of the American Museum of Natural History was announced by Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn.

On Wednesday afternoon the American Association of University Women, presided over

by Mrs. Edgerton Parsons, welcomed Madame Curie in Carnegie Hall. Dean Ada Comstock, of Smith College, president of the association, extended a welcome on behalf of the college and university women of the United States. Addresses were made by Dr. Florence Sabin, professor of histology at the Johns Hopkins University, and Dr. Alice Hamilton, of the Harvard Medical School. President Pendleton, of Wellesley College, announced the award to Mme. Curie of the special Ellen Richards Research Prize of \$2,000.

On Thursday evening, at a dinner given in her honor by the National Institute of Social Science, the gold medal of the society was presented by Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn, who read the presentation address of Vice-president Coolidge, who was absent on account of illness.

The gram of radium valued at \$120,000, a gift from the women of America, was presented to Mme. Curie by President Harding on May 20. M. Jusserand, the French Ambassador, made a brief introduction. After the presentation Mme. Curie responded as follows:

I can not express to you the emotion which fills my heart in this moment. You, the chief of this great Republic of the United States, honor me as no woman has ever been honored in America before. The destiny of a nation whose women can do what your countrywomen do to-day through you, Mr. President, is sure and safe. It gives me confidence in the destiny of democracy.

I accept this rare gift, Mr. President, with the hope that I may make it serve mankind. I thank your countrywomen in the name of France. I thank them in the name of humanity which we all wish so much to make happier. I love you all, my American friends, very much.

In the evening at a meeting held under the auspices of the U. S. National Museum, presided over by Dr. Charles D. Walcott, of the Smithsonian Institution, Miss Julia Lathrop extended to Mme. Curie greetings on behalf of the scientific men and women of Washington and Dr. Robert A. Millikan, of the University of Chicago, gave an address on radium, describing the researches that led to its isolation by Mme. Curie. On the following day